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Allegiance

DepthClan

Leader: Tinystar
Deputy: Witheredsoul
Medicine cat: Creamspots
Warriors:
Cheetahpelt
Shinyfall
Lionsun
Nightscare
Fallingsparkle
Burninghope
Roseeyes
Dustyleap
Flyblaze
Leopardtail
Loveheart
Blacklight
Lightstorm
Emberbreeze
Maplesnow
Tulipheart
Lightningstrike
Swirlpool
Deerscar
Honeydrip
Icehowl
Sunstream
Volenose
Apprentices:
Rainpaw
Riverpaw
Queen:
Angelwing
Kits:

Spokenkit
Nightkit
Acornkit
Silentkit
Goldkit
Wolfkit
Smokekit
Leafkit
Elder:
Sunflare
Branchtail

MapleClan

Leader: Venomstar
Deputy: Brightfire
Medicine cat: Pricklestorm
Warriors:
Robinheart
Badgerjaw
Weaselsun
Sandywing
Apprentices:
Cherrypaw
Heronpaw
Queens:
Blossomsoul
Thawpuddle
Summerstripe
Kits:
Wolfkit
Desertkit
Spottedkit
Jaykit
Snowkit
Coalkit
Sleekkit
Foxkit
Elders:
Thorntail

Tigerfur
Dawnfur
Honeyear

TideClan

Leader: Duskstar
Deputy: Falcondust
Medicine cat: Blizzardleap
Warriors:
Batbreeze
Smallshadow
Sandpool
Hollyblossom
Ashstripe
Frecklepelt
Eaglecloud
Frostsky
Snowingblaze
Sandpool
Wolfhowl
Stealthstep
Apprentices:
Pinepaw
Hawkpaw
Featherpaw
Goldenpaw
Skypaw
Queen:
Watersplash
Kits:
Ravenkit
Yellowkit
Vixenkit
Elders:
Redfur
Thunderquake

EverClan

Leader: Bugstar

Deputy: Skycloud
Apprentices:
Mistpaw
Breezepaw
Stagpaw
Sparrowpaw

LilyClan

Leader: Flamestar
Deputy: Emeraldshine
Medicine cat: Mintshy
Warriors:
Stormsong
Misteyes
Emeraldshine
Ivyheart
Nettleflash
Sparkwing
Flowertail
Apprentices:
Lightpaw
Ashpaw
Firepaw

SmallClan

Leader: Maskedstar
Deputy: Birdskip
Medicine cat: Starlingcall
Warriors:
Featherleap
Breezestone
Silverflower
Heathershine
Sagecall
Swiftriver
Stormleap
Grasswave
Shellclaw
Shardbreeze

Queen:
Sparkfeather
Kits:
Brokenkit
Jaykit
Zebrakit
Elders:
Acornsun
Drawffern
Tinycloud

Dark Forest Warriors

Hawkstar
Darkfeather
Bloodtear
Maplefur
Spiderfang
Snakerattle
Tigersnap
Leapingdeath
Flarestar

Phantoms

Malvago
Morte
Vendetta

Prologue

It had been a moon since the recent take over of all the clans. They hadn't tried anything rash yet. They had been settling in. Some of them complained and where put in prisoner dens. Each of the Dark Forest leaders stayed put with one of the clans. This was the only way they knew to make sure that the clans stayed under their control and didn't rebel.

Tinystar stayed in charge of DepthClan as its leader. Witheredsoul became her deputy. He was the only one she could trust. She heard the whispers in the clan. Some of them weren't sure about her. Some of them didn't like her. Yet, somehow some of them liked her and said she was the leader they had been needing. She was strong unlike their last two leaders.

They had said Spokenstar was weak at heart. Others, like Cheetahpelt who was one of the few left alive that knew her personally, would disagree with that. He said she was a strong leader and they were too young to truly know her. He knew that Spokenstar had worked hard to become the leader of the clan.

Those that agreed with Tinystar also said that Midnightstar was extremely weak. Almost everyone agreed with that. She had been a kittypet turned to a leader. Power had gone to her head. She was weak and hated by all. She was a little crazy as well.

Maskedstar was ruling over SmallClan with Malvago and the rest of her Phantoms staying in the clan. There was only one Dark Forest warrior in the clan and that was Flarestar. He was only there because he insisted on staying just in case. The Phantoms couldn't always be the ones in control so he would show the cats the old fashion way how to listen.

Flamestar was slowly settling in as the leader of LilyClan. He had Hawkstar almost always there with him. His clan was small and slowly getting settled back into being a clan. The ginger and white tom had been sad when his mother had died since both of his

parents were then gone, but he didn't let it show. He knew that sadness could get him killed since it would be showing weakness. He didn't want that.

Venomstar was being a powerful leader of MapleClan. Bloodtear was suppose to be the leader of the Dark Forest over MapleClan but he stayed in DepthClan more. Instead, he had put a lazy tom by the name of Leapingdeath in charge of seeing that they followed the rules. He was almost always asleep.

Duskstar was better from his illness. His whole clan was. Maplefur was also suppose to be the leader of the Dark Forest that was helping TideClan, but she was in DepthClan with her mate. She had put Spiderfang in charge of it instead.

Bugstar stayed the leader of his small clan. Darkfeather put Snakerattle in charge of it so that the tom could be with his mate. Bugstar followed by the rules since he knew his clan was too small to put up a fight against the Dark Forest and survive.

Chapter 1

[Maplesnow's POV]

I shook my head as I saw my sister walk out of the nursery. She had been bonding with her kits. It made me disgusted. I was the one that took care of them when she wasn't there. Now she had Witheredsoul and Darkfeather following her around like lost kittens. I just couldn't believe it. The rest of us where stuck in the camp, waiting for a chance to ask Tinystar when she isn't busy talking to her kits, her mate, or her deputy isn't following her around. That basically happened in our dreams and no where else.

My sister saw me looking at her and she turned her path so it was heading toward me. My fur stood on end but I forced it to stay flat. I could feel the glares from Bloodtear and Maplefur on my sides. They were most likely near the Depth Rock together. They were going to make sure I didn't do anything stupid to my own sister. Witheredsoul and Darkfeather were stuck to her sides.

The black and white tom looked like he was glad to be coming back over to me. We hadn't talked since the Dark Forest attacked. I felt like one of the Dark Forest warriors had cut off my tail. I lost my best friend and the one cat that I could talk to to keep me from doing stupid stupid. He was also the only one to know about the one shecat I actually fancy who is in another clan.

The dark furred tom that was all dark brown didn't seem happy to see me. Then again, he only truly seemed happy when he had Tinystar to himself. He didn't even like Witheredsoul that much but tolerated him since he was her best friend. I just wished they could go away and I could have my family back.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw a silvery wisp of smoke. I was almost certain it was one of the Phantoms, but I wasn't sure which one. Malvago had been going more for a red color when she was a wisp. Morte had been going for more of a black color. I was guessing the silver was for Vendetta, or Metalclaw as I wished I

could call him.

He was still my father, he had just been shifted now. It was all Malvago's fault. She could change the mind of someone when she was picking Phantoms. She gave them different things. Like for Morte, she gave him the power for being able to get inside someone's body and explode it. Vendetta we had guessed were able to dig holes quickly. We had found a cat suffocated to death from being buried alive.

Meanwhile, the leader Malvago, liked to kill the old fashion way and blame it on someone else. She would possess someone and kill using their body. It was dangerous and we had even killed some cat because of what she did. Some cat that was innocent. That cat was Bluesnow and she didn't deserve to die.

Don't expect much from me. I'm lazy and I procrastinate but I want to be writing more.

Chapter 2

[Tinystar's POV]

I saw out of the corner of my eye my little brother, Maplesnow, staring at me. I could see it was upsetting Darkfeather. I knew my mate hated the goody good tom. I still cared about my brother, but I had to figure out what he was doing.

"Darkfeather, go ahead and get some patrols going to get food. I'm going to talk to my brother. Witheredsoul, go and help Darkfeather." I told the two toms who basically flanked me all the time. It was rather annoying, but I was glad for the extra protection.

Darkfeather bowed his head down to me before hurrying off to go and find some warriors that were away from Maplesnow. Witheredsoul quickly followed the dark brown tom. I never understood why they bowed their heads to me, but I felt like I had more power if they did. I watched as they went away before padding to my brother. He seemed shocked that I was going over to him.

"O-oh... h-hello Tinystar. What are you doing over here?" He stuttered in the beginning but quickly regained his composure.

I knew him better than anyone else. He was scared with all the Dark Forest cats and the Phantoms around. He was also probably scared that I would do something to the clan. I wouldn't for now, but if something happened to my kits I would destroy all of them. Acornkit and Silentkit were precious to me and I was happy that I could have them in my life now. I would do anything for them. They needed the best life that consisted of both light and dark. They would be balanced and know what to do in both situations.

"Hello Maplesnow. I just wanted to check in with my little brother. Is that so bad? I also caught you staring at me and I wanted to know what you were thinking." I said carefully saying each word so I didn't mess up.

The others saw me as a fearless evil leader who didn't make mistakes. I had to keep up the act for a while so they didn't overrule me. Even with some of my Dark Forest warriors, they could overthrow me if they wanted. I wasn't sure why they lost in the first place. They had the hope any everything, but they went down so easily. It didn't add up in my head, but I was going to find it out soon, even if I had to punish my clanmates to find it out.

"Oh, I was just staring off into Starpelt. I didn't mean to be staring at you. I was thinking about what happened at the battle if I'm honest." Maplesnow said softly. He had paused before he even said anything so I knew something was off. He usually spoke his mind and this wasn't him. My little brother had changed to someone who didn't believe in me. If he acted up, he would be the perfect example to everyone that I am a leader to be feared.

Ooo, so Tiny is kinda a good leader at the moment. Not sure how long that will last but if you have seen the titles for the other books, don't spoil it for the rest of them. I want them to see it happen for themselves.

Chapter 3

[Icehowl's POV]

I watched as my little brother padded over to me with Darkfeather by his side. It was more like Darkfeather walking over to me with Witheredsoul trailing behind him, but I cared about my brother more.

"Icehowl, we would like you to lead a hunting patrol that will also check the border with no clan. You may pick the cats you have in your patrol but hurry up." Darkfeather said in a low growl. My eyes went over to Witheredsoul to see if he had anything to say, but his green eyes would not meet mine.

Traitor. He deserves not to even look at me. He has clawed our backs. He's using us as kittypet so and loners. He doesn't even care about us anymore. I thought to myself. I wish I could say it, but I would be punished if I did.

"I will get onto that. Who else is leading patrols so I know not to pick them?" I asked them. I mainly wanted more time for my brother to be stuck near me. I already knew I wanted to pick Deerscar unless she was leading a patrol. We had to find out how to get Witheredsoul back to our side.

"Cheetahpelt and Blacklight. Now go and get your warriors." Darkfeather hissed before padding away with my brother quickly following after him.

I had an idea of who I wanted on my patrol. The Dark Forest warriors let us patrol on our own, so I wanted some cats I could trust to do the right thing. My sister was the first in my mind and then Leopardtail came into my mind to pick. He had lost his brother to the Dark Forest's killings. He would want them to be gone and to get someone on the inside. My last pick would be Roseeyes. She lost her mother to the Dark Forest's killings as well. She would have some hatred toward them and I could use that to our advantage.

After I figured out my plan, I hurried to go and find the two shecats and the one tom. Deerscar was chatting to Volenose but she quickly excused herself when she saw me coming over to her.

"Yes? What do you need?" She asked me softly but in a hushed voice. She knew we had to do something and could see I had a plan.

"Hunting patrol. You're on it along with Roseeyes and Leopardtail. I still need to go and get them." I told her. She nodded and said a quick goodbye to Volenose before following me to find the other two.

It didn't take long to find them and my small little patrol was heading out to the forest. I had to make sure we were a good distance away from the camp before I stopped to talk to them. I might as well wait until we were near the border. That would also give me time to figure out how to word this all. It would be fun.

Chapter 4

[Roseeye's POV]

I looked at Icehowl once he turned around when we were at the border. What in the world was this young tom doing? I didn't understand why the younger group thought they had so much power over us. Tinystar would have gone down if we had reunited. It was all the younger warriors' fault for disbanding and some of them even siding with Tinystar.

"I have a plan, and I trust the three of you." Icehowl said abruptly. My eyes widened and I could tell Leopardtail's did too.

What did the four of us have in common? I looked at the strange gang of misfits. There was Deerscar and Icehowl the siblings of Witheredsoul. Then there was Leopardtail who lost his only brother to Tinystar and the rest of the Dark Forest. Then there was me, the one cat who lost her mother and always wanted revenge on the Dark Forest. We had the Dark Forest in common and how we lost to it before they took over the clans.

"If we get caught, we are all going to die." I spoke up first. I thought being the oldest meant I have to take some charge.

"That's why we stay far away from the camp. I've done plenty of patrols and none of them follow us. We need to do this. It would get our clan back!" Icehowl said his light blue eyes seeming to beg for our help.

"What is the plan?" Leopardtail asked the white tom.

"We keep meeting up like this, small patrols and figure out who else is trust worthy. When the kits are able to become apprentices, we will raise them to be like us. We can get the rest of our siblings. Leopardtail, I'm sure your siblings will join too. You too Roseeyes. Then I think I can get Maplesnow to convince his siblings." Icehowl explained as he looked at us. I thought about my siblings. They

weren't happy about it, but they wouldn't fight back.

"Flamefur was the one who got everyone to fight. We aren't her." Leopardtail commented to the rest of us. He was right, she was the fighter and the spirit of DepthClan.

"We have her essence still with us. We have her spirit in StarClan, Cheetahpelt, her kits. They all have her essence in her. Cheetahpelt may not want to admit it, but he is rather strong and can rally everyone together. Maplesnow and Blacklight are strong like her. Everyone already looks to Emberbreeze and Lightstorm. There is also Spokenkit and Nightkit." Icehowl said looking at us.

"They were named after two strong warriors of DepthClan. If I can get one of them, I can train her to be like the shecat she was named after. I hope that Cheetahpelt can get the other one. He was close to both of them and the only one left who really knew them." I spoke up looking at them. I was the first one born from them, and the only one still alive that was really close to them.

"It's a plan then." Icehowl smirked.

Chapter 5

[Heronpaw's POV]

I glanced around my camp. As long as this kept Cherrypaw safe, I was fine with what was going on. I found it more exciting than what I had heard about the clan life. I wondered that if I could become a warrior soon, if they would let me join their ranks. It would get me on the winning side, and make it even safer for Cherrypaw.

I paused my thoughts as I heard a clan meeting being called by Venomstar. I titled my head confused on what it could be. Was it my warrior ceremony so soon? I didn't think it was but it was a possibility. The kits becoming apprentices could also be a possibility but there wasn't enough warriors for it. They were also only three and a half moons old. They couldn't possibly be becoming warriors.

I headed over to the clearing and I could see Venomstar standing proudly on High Branch. On a branch below him, Leapingdeath was asleep as usual. Who I was perplexed to see was Bloodtear standing next to Leapingdeath. That tom was hardly ever around because his mate was ruling over SmallClan.

"I have called this clan meeting because I have seen two apprentices work into becoming warriors. They fought just as hard as any warrior in the battle, and I believe that they should become warriors.

"Cherrypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to defend MapleClan, even if it costs you your life?" Venomstar started to speak. I watched the red furred shecat next to me smile.

"I do!" She said proudly. Her eyes flickered to me and the Dark Forest warriors. I wasn't sure if they would do anything to us since this is what we have always done.

"Then from this moment on you shall be called Cherrywisp.

MapleClan and StarClan honors you for your bravery and virtue." He finished with Cherrywisp and then turned to me.

"Heronpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect MapleClan, even if it costs you your life?" The leader asked me next. I knew siding against the Dark Forest would be against the warrior code, but I had to say I do for this.

"I do." I said proudly flicking my eyes to Bloodtear and Leapingdeath. I hoped they could overlook this small little promise that almost every warrior breaks so I can be with them and protect my family.

"Then from this moment on you shall be called Heronwing. MapleClan and StarClan honors you for your bravery and wisdom." Venomstar finished and looked around the camp. There wasn't any other thing to do except border patrols but those were chosen by the deputy.

"We finally made it." Cherrywisp whispered to me with a smile. I could finally be her mate. I was happy I could truly be with her now. I just have to figure out the right time to ask her. It had to be marvelous and wonderful. It would only be right for a wonderful shecat to be asked a wonderful question.

Chapter 6

[Shellclaw's POV]

I woke up from the miserable new life we were stuck in. I looked and saw my sister next to me. As long as she was happy, I could put up with this. I knew she was seeing someone from DepthClan, but I kept it a secret. I would never tell Maskedstar that my sister was most likely going to become mates with someone from DepthClan.

There were reasons why I didn't like Maskedstar. I had heard he never liked any of the other clans, much less DepthClan. He also hated my birth clan, which I couldn't stand. He was also very rude to the rest of the clan. No wonder the Dark Forest chose him to be the leader.

I wished that we had Bearstar back. He might not have been the nicest leader, but he was nice to us and knew that we were having a hard time. I wanted a nice leader to be back, but I knew that was almost impossible unless Maskedstar died. I knew he wouldn't die anytime soon. The Dark Forest would never allow for it so soon after he took rule.

"Shellclaw, what are you thinking about?" I heard a soft voice and turned my head to see the light green eyes of my sister. She must have just woken up from her nap.

"Nothing, just about the clan." I told her before getting up.

I didn't want to disturb her and I had to figure out a way to get the Dark Forest away. We had hope and we were still strong. They caught us off surprise, if we have the surprise, we can certainly win!

I headed out to the forest to practice some of my fighting moves. I had to keep them in shape if I wanted to take the Dark Forest down. I knew I would have to find other cats to join my cause, but for now I would work on my own skills then do that.

I thought about cats that could join my side. I knew my sister would do it either way. Maplesnow, the tom she was seeing would join us too if he wasn't already trying to get away from the Dark Forest in his clan. The kits that were just born might be good candidates but they are far too young to do anything. I would just have to make sure their minds are ready for it all.

Grasswave and the elders would probably help too. I just hope the elders aren't too old that they have lost all their skills. We will need them for all the battles we will be going through. I also knew the Dark Forest would not let up on their forces. If they see us conspiring against them, they might send more cats to reenforce us. That would never be good. I also knew that the Phantoms could be lurking anywhere. They were the biggest threat since no one knew how to kill one. It seemed impossible.

Chapter 7

[Witheredsoul's POV]

I had finished doing all the patrols, and now I was looking for something to do. I couldn't go on patrols when the clan was still getting adjusted to all the new life with the Dark Forest controlling them. I needed to be there to protect Tinystar if she needed anything. She was the only one I could trust anymore.

"Hello Witheredsoul." A slick voice said from behind me. I turned and I saw the dark wisp of one of the Phantoms. From the more feminine voice, I guessed it was Malvago.

"Yes? Do you need anything?" I asked her politely. Could I even call her a her? She was more of an It by now, but I guessed it was still more polite to call her a her.

"Oh, I was just wondering what you were doing all by yourself. Why aren't you with any of your friends?" The shecat asked. I could tell she was dancing around as a shadow, trying to distract me. She had been nervous to go in her solid form, knowing that anyone could easily murder her at will if she did.

"Tinystar is busy and I know her mate doesn't like me very much. My siblings all hate that I'm with the Dark Forest, and so does Maplesnow. I don't really have anyone I regularly talk to to hang out with." I told her truthfully. Since the Dark Forest took over, I only hung out with Tinystar and her mate. Darkfeather didn't like me that much, so when it was possible the two would sneak away from me.

"Then how about you make friendships with the kits. You are still young and they will look up to you. You should make a good bond with them so they stay on our side and don't try to rebel. You wouldn't want to kill your maybe apprentice, would you?" Malvago started a long rant. "If you don't want to do that, then how about you figure out who is loyal to the Dark Forest and who is not. We

need eight warriors that are loyal. Tinystar, you, and six more warriors will be getting apprentices when they are old enough." She suggested. It was a good idea to do, just to know who won't influence the kits to do the right thing with the rest of the clan.

"Alright, who do you want me to start with?" I asked her patiently. She had some good ideas. Tinystar and I were the only true DepthClan warriors that could have an apprentice. The rest had their own clans to govern.

"Start with the warriors. Try some of the older ones but then do to the younger ones. After that, investigate the two apprentices. I know they are becoming warriors soon, but I want to see how they think. After you finish all that, make friends with the kits. They need someone to look up to and you are the cat for that. Have fun." She said before heading away.

Chapter 8

[Emberbreeze's POV]

I had just gotten some prey to eat when I saw Witheredsoul talking to one of the Phantoms. I couldn't make out which one it was from the distance I was away from them, but after the Phantom whisked away, I saw him looking at me. What could the new deputy and second to most powerful tom need from me? He headed over to me slowly and I decided to try to ignore him.

Witheredsoul had sided with the Dark Forest and became a traitor to the rest of us. He really only was talked about in the bad manner from the rest of us. His siblings couldn't stand that he sided with them, and even Maplesnow didn't talk about him anymore. The two used to be such good friends, and now that they went to different sides, they have been separated to different paths.

I hoped that the tom could come to his senses, but I knew it would be a good while before that ever happened, if it ever did. It would have to either be Maplesnow or one of his siblings that would get him to change sides. For now, he was stuck on the side of evil with none of us sure what to do. We all wanted to help him since we knew he was truly good, but he would just never listen to us.

"Hey Emberbreeze, how is it going?" He asked me to bring my attention out of my own mind. I focused back on him trying not to let my mind wander again.

"I guess it is alright. It could easily be better, but I bet it must be amazing for you." I told him truthfully with narrow eyes. I didn't care if he told someone important that I was sassing back to them or not. He deserved it.

"I mean, if you warriors would just cooperate, you could get a better life. It's not that hard and yet you make it the most complicated things ever." He huffed back at me. I watched as his green eyes narrowed at me trying to pinpoint my motives.

"If you were nicer, than I might actually consider being nice to you all. So far you have all been rather rude to us. I suggest you get your Dark Forest buddies to be a lot nicer to us and we will cooperate." I hissed back at him. I could see some warriors looking at us as my tail lashed back and forth. My eyes glanced over to Cheetahpelt who just curled up under the shade and watched. I knew he was still hurt he had lost everyone.

"You should watch your mouth." Witheredsoul hissed as he got up quickly. I watched as his claws dug into the sand. I didn't care if he did anything to me. He couldn't possible hurt me too badly.

"I will watch it when you watch after the eat of us." I hissed to him and quickly turned away and walked off.

Chapter 9

[Spiderfang's POV]

I sulked around the Dark Forest. I had been told to stay in the Dark Forest, by myself I might as well add, and guard it to make sure no StarClan warriors got into our lands. It wasn't like they would ever want to get into our lands anyways. They were dark and scary at times. It was nothing like the bright light on the other side of the dead.

I would often find myself sitting near the edge of the Dark Forest's border and watch the StarClan warriors from the safety of the bushes. They never seemed to notice me. It could be that my black fur matched the darkness, or that they didn't care about me. I liked to think the first one so that they just didn't see me.

I would also think about my life choices to get myself to where I was now. I used to be apart of TideClan when it was first formed. I killed two kits and trained in the Dark Forest. Now that I go over it, I don't know why I ever did it. The kits never did anything wrong to me except get in my way once. I could still imagine the day clearly.

It had been raining all day and just a dark outcast. It was gloomy and no one really wanted to be outside their dens except the kits. There was no room in the warrior den, so they said, so they pushed my outside. I pinned my ears back and went to go to the abandoned apprentice den that housed no apprentices at the time.

As I walked there, two little kits ran under my feet wanting to annoy me. I told them to stop but they didn't listen to me. Once they got in my way again, I swatted the bigger one to the side with one powerful swat. I watched as the fragile body hit the side of the camp and went limp.

The other kit thought it was funny to run in front of me and soon met the same fate as his friend. I had no hate against the kits, but as I saw them lifeless, I somehow felt pleasure. I wished to never feel it again and quickly left the clan.

I made it on my own for a moon before a patrol came and found me. They killed me on sight for what I had done and I was sent straight to the Dark Forest. There had been no "ifs," "ands," or "buts" about it. It felt wrong that I had ended up there, but I deserved it. I enjoyed the torture of two defenseless kits! No other warrior should ever enjoy that. It was sickening and I tried not to think about it.

I wondered what would have happened if I never killed those kits. Would something else have happened to make me end up in the Dark Forest or were I bound to end up here? I knew I would never know the answer so have hp asking it.

Chapter 10

[Weaselsun's POV]

I never really knew what the Dark Forest was. I was one of the warriors that had never heard of StarClan before coming to the clans along with my family. I didn't even know if they were real until they were standing right in front of me. It was like the dead had risen again. I was tempted to run away, but I could never leave my family.

"Hey, Weaselsun. What are you thinking about?" Sandywing asked as she came to my side. I let out a soft purr and nudged her side to make sure she wasn't worried about me.

"I was just thinking about our choices recently. I want us to be happy. Are you happy?" I asked her softly flicking my ears back and forth. My eyes also scanned the area just to see who was around. Some cats were still in the camp, but it seemed like the majority of the cats were gone.

"I am happy. It will take some adjusting to, but I am happy that we are all alive. We didn't lose too many warriors and you are safe." She purred nuzzling her soft fur against my cheek. I smiled and licked my head. It was rare that I showed a lot of emotion.

"Then I am happy and I can put up with anything for you. I just want you, Thawpuddle, and the kits safe." I purred back to her and laid my head on my paws.

It would be interesting to see how the Dark Forest slowly took over the clans. At the moment they weren't really doing anything drastic. They looked over us, but they didn't have any special rules. It was mainly like we had another deputy to watch our every move than it felt like we were being governed by them.

I wasn't going to complain. It felt nice to be able to do what I want and not have to worry about if I could get in trouble with them. I

could still do almost all my regular duties, I just sometimes had to ask permission but Leapingdeath was almost always asleep so Venomstar would just let me go.

I wondered how the other clans were handling it. I knew some of them lost their leaders. Well, most of the clans lost their leaders. Only TideClan and EverClan didn't lose their leaders. Every other clan suffered a giant lost that could never be replaced.

I never knew Silverstar that well or any of the other leaders that had died, but I couldn't imagine how hard it must have been on those that were close to them. I knew it must have been the worst on their kits. Venomstar was just now starting to talk after his father's death. He had become almost silent since he died and not saying anything.

"Please never leave me." I whispered to my mate needing her more now than ever. We needed each other and everyone else to make it through this.

Chapter 11

[Rainpaw's POV]

I watched out of the corner of my eye Tinystar jump up onto the Depth Rock. I had no clue what she was doing up there, but I guessed it must have been for a meeting. I wondered why Witheredsoul was still near me. Usually he would have gone to follow Tinystar within a heartbeat. The tom was always following her nowadays along with Darkfeather. The three were almost inseparable, just like Tinystar, Witheredsoul, and Maplesnow were. Now the three of them seemed to hate each other.

"What do you think about all the changes recently? You can tell me truthfully." Witheredsoul asked me quietly. He seemed like he wanted answers and was being bribed to ask everyone to see what side they were on.

"I guess they are okay. They keep it interesting here. I really like that we have a strong leader, not saying my mother wasn't strong, but Tinystar is a lot stronger." I told him truthfully. I also knew my brother was a lot more partial on it. He loved that the Dark Forest was taking over and couldn't wait to help them. I was still on the border to figure out what was happening. I didn't know if I liked them or not.

"Do you like them?" He asked me flicking his ear. He got up like he was about to leave.

"They are okay. I don't really know, but they seem like they want to do the best." I told him.

He just nodded and headed over to the Depth Rock as Tinystar called a clan meeting. I saw my brother come to my side and smile. It was our time to become warriors. I wondered what our names would be. I knew it would be something awesome.

"We have two apprentices that have trained hard to become

warriors. Riverpaw, will you step up first?" The calico shecat asked and I watched as my brother stepped up with his head held high.

I could see Midnightstar in him. He had her eyes and her pride. He also had her brain to figure different things and other cats out. It was a wonder to me what he could do.

"I have seen you train long and hard. You have been strong no matter what happened. I believe that you deserve your warrior name. From this moment on, you shall be called Riversand. We honor you for your courage and wisdom.

"Next we have Rainpaw. Please step up." She said looking at me. I got up and headed next to my brother. "I have also seen you train long and hard. You may not have the same strength as your brother, but you still have the fire that burns bright in all of us. From this moment on you shall be called Rainsong. We honor you for your spite and determination." She called out. I heard my clan chanting out my name along with my brothers name. We were really apart of this now. It was the best thing.

Chapter 12

[Stealthstep's POV]

I went to visit the kits in the nursery to keep them company. I knew with these dark times that they would need some excitement. As soon as I walk into the nursery, I was rushed with excitement.

"Stealthstep! Stealthstep!" The three little kits cheered loudly. They all seemed really excited to see me. I just hoped the darkness and despair that was in everyone wouldn't get to them. I looked at Watersplash and offered her a meek smile. It would be hard raising the only kits on the clan.

"Yes little ones. I have come to visit you today. What do you want to do or what do you want me to teach you?" I asked them with a big smile. There was no way that I was going to let them see the darkness. They didn't deserve to know about it at such a young age.

"Teach us how to play a game!" Vixenkit said first bouncing up and down. The ginger little shecat seemed really energetic.

"No! Teach us the hunting crouch!" Yellowkit cheered with festive giggles. I just knew that if she could always have her hope, she would make it through this world wonderfully.

"No! You should tell us a story about how you got here!" Ravenkit said. He was the only tom of the little and jet black. He seemed curious, but knew his boundaries. He was rightfully named for his ability to mimic others too.

"Hm, what do you think Watersplash?" I asked their mother wondering what she wanted me to teach them. I didn't want to go against her orders so it was always best to ask.

"Do whatever you want." The Russian blue shecat said turning away from me. Her voice seemed drawn out and exhausted. I think it was either the kits or the Dark Forest that was getting to her. I would

have to tell Wolfhowl about that later so he could come and cheer her up.

"Then it shall be a story I tell you. They are always the best. I have three different stories I can tell you. Want to pick which one?" I asked them and saw as their eyes lit up with excitement. A good story always excited kits.

"Well what are the choices?" Vixenkit asked first. If I had to guess a leader out of the litter, it would have to be her.

"My kithood, the time I met Watersplash and Wolfhowl, or the battle." I told them waiting for a response. They seemed to ponder what I had told them and quietly whispered to themselves.

"Do you have anything to cheer mother up?" Yellowkit asked quietly. Her almost yellow eyes glanced over to Watersplash who was now in the corner of the nursery trying not to pay attention.

"I don't know, but I can try. I promise you all that." I told them and headed closer to the nursing mother and laid down. I thought of the best story to tell, and I started to retell what happened.

Chapter 13

[Fallingsparkle's POV]

I watched after the two apprentices had been made warriors. It was nice to see them becoming warriors. We definitely needed some new warriors that were energetic. I was loosing my energy and I could see the other older warriors also losing their energy and will to fight.

I glanced out of the corner of my eye, and I saw my mate, Nightscare, and my son, Lightningstrike, walking toward me. I wondered what the two toms needed so I went to meet them halfway. They were my only family left anyways. I had to take care of them and make sure they didn't need anything.

"Yes? Am I needed for something?" I asked them curiously. They both had a blank expression which was rather hard to read.

"Why would we need you? There isn't anything special to do around the camp." Lightningstrike said with brutal honesty. His name suited him so well because his comments could hurt like lightning.

"Come on Lightningstrike, be nice to your mother." Nightscare said to the tom before turning to me. "We wanted to come and talk to you. Is that such a bad thing?" He asked me and nuzzled my cheek. I giggled softly and shook my pelt out.

"No, it isn't. I'm sorry I assumed you needed something. I thought that maybe I would be needed for a patrol or something like that." I told them not saying the complete truth.

I truthfully thought I broke a rule of the Dark Forest and they told my family to get me. They would be the ones to do that to me to make me break even more. They were evil, but I wasn't sure if they were that evil. I hoped they weren't at least.

"Good, do you want to do something or just stay in the camp?"

Nightscare asked me softly. I had been staying in the camp since the Dark Forest took over. It might be a good thing to leave for a bit.

"I guess I'll leave for a bit. You two can decide what we are doing. I don't really care. I think it's a good idea to stretch." I said heading toward the entrance to the camp just expecting them to be following me. Thankfully when I did look back, they were close behind me.

"How about we just walk the territory? We can check for scents and just talk." Lightningstrike suggested to the rest of us. I nodded along with his idea and headed toward the point farthest from the camp and just strolled my way through the trees.

"Fallingsparkle, are you sure you are okay? You have been rather distant since the Dark Forest took over." Nightscare finally spoke up. I knew it. They did need something from me, but they weren't going to admit it right out of the gates.

"I'm perfectly fine. I don't know why you are all so worried about me." I huffed and padded slightly quicker.

"This was the first time we had asked." I could hear Lightningstrike mutter from behind me. I just flicked my tail in response and kept walking.

Chapter 14

[Tinystar's POV]

I glanced around the camp. I needed to do some talking to the warriors, but I saw Witheredsoul playing with the kits. It made me happy just to see him having some fun and not caring what others have to say to him. He didn't seem to take the drastic change so greatly. He was shunned from the others and I was the only one that would talk to him. I had hoped it didn't make anything drastic in him changed. It seemed like it didn't.

"Tinystar, may I have a word with you?" Darkfeather asked walking up to my side. He had just went to visit EverClan to check on how they were doing. He had put another Dark Forest warrior in charge while he was gone, but he seemed to like the small clan.

"Yes, you can always talk to me." I told him turning my head to the side. I relied on him as my second in charge even if Witheredsoul was my deputy. I knew Witheredsoul didn't get along with others, but he was swayed too easily from emotions that changed rapidly. I had to keep a close eye on him.

"Bugstar has informed me that he would like to do the apprentice assignments before the gathering. He would also like to see if all the medicine cats could give Stagpaw his final assignment. He would feel better if it wasn't just his mentors doing it. Since he had never gone through the assignment and Skycloud can't do it all by herself, he would like some help from DepthClan." He informed me. I just nodded thinking about the small clan.

"I will be over there to help them, but I can't get there anytime soon. It will be before the gathering. I can promise that much. I just don't know when. With the medicine cats, I will have to talk to the other leaders to see when that can be arranged." I told him and flicked my tail to dismiss him.

I looked at him a second longer before glancing at the clan. I would

need more warriors from the Dark Forest soon. Even if only half of the clans were with me, the few warriors I had here wouldn't be enough to keep them all in check. I would also like to enforce them more so they didn't talk back to us. It would be a bumpy road, but it would be well worth it in the end. I would get to see my kits grow up and become leaders. I just wished I could see my brother join my side.

The tom had always been stubborn. I didn't expect him to join my side right away, but I knew he would join sooner or later. He wanted to be with family no matter what. It was always the most important thing to him. He was the one that kept us together and having fun. It would be his mission for us to be like that again.

Chapter 15

[Thorntail's POV]

I watched as the kits came over into the elder's den. It was surprising that they were coming over here, despite most likely having other things to do that are more fun. I saw Sleekkit and Coalkit come in first followed by Foxkit, Wolfkit, Spottedkit, Jaykit, Snowkit, and Desertkit.

"What do you need little ones?" I asked them quietly. I knew Wolfkit and his siblings were two moons old now. Sleekkit and Coalkit were a moon and a half, and Foxkit was only a moon old. They hadn't visited me yet.

"We wanted to hear a story about Silverstar!" Coalkit said excitedly. His black little tail was flicking back and forth quickly. If it went any faster, it could fall off.

"Well, what do you want to know about him?" I asked the kits as they gathered down around me. I had known the tom since he joined the clan, and I knew where he was and what happened to him before he joined the clan.

"Was he always in the clan?" Sleekkit asked more quietly. I chuckled and shook my head. Venomstar must have told them nothing about his father. I couldn't blame him.

"No, he came from SmallClan before they moved to this territory." I told them patiently trying to answer some questions that would come up at the same time.

"How did he get here?" Wolfkit asked me next. He seemed to be paying attention, but I wasn't sure if he was actually interested.

"He traveled from his old clan to come here. Do you want to hear the story about that?" I asked them remembering bits and pieces but I could make it more exciting if I couldn't remember it all.

"Yes!" They all said in excitement. Their eyes went wide as they waited for me to tell them the story about how Silverstar ended up here.

"Well, he was born to a shecat in SmallClan. He had two brothers and two sisters. His only brother still alive is Cheetahpelt. They lived in the clan for five moons of their life, and then their neighboring clans attacked them. They stole the kits and they were separated from their mother. Silverstar was separated from his siblings as well and kept prisoner in the clan for a while.

"He finally got away and met some other cats. They all ended up dying, but he kept pushing himself. He soon made it here after after a moon, and he had his bones showing and was completely dirty. We quickly took the tom in and tried to nurse him back to health. It wasn't until another moon until we figured out that DepthClan homed his missing siblings." I told them. I shortened up what actually happened so it didn't take forever to retell it. I could have talked about how he met his two friends and how they died, but I decided not to.

"Did he really do all that?" Coalkit asked me.

"He really did. He was a brave cat, and your father is still hurt that he lost him." I told him before stretching slightly to figure out what they wanted next.

Chapter 16

[Lightningstrike's POV]

I blinked very slowly. I fluffed my pelt out and shook my head. This whole thing was pointless. Fallingsparkle never wanted to reconnect with me. I was just some messed up son to her. She should have her daughter back and I should be the one gone instead. She would have been happier that way.

"I'm going back to the camp. Try and cheer her up, but I don't care if you don't. She doesn't want me here." I hissed to him and slowly headed back to the camp keeping my ears perked in case of anything.

I watched my surroundings carefully. The leaves were starting to turn to some shades of yellow, orange, and red. It looked really pretty in my eyes and it reminded me about a certain someone that I couldn't keep out of my head. My parents only made her that much more present.

I wanted to have a functional family that didn't argue all the time. I wanted someone to be there and trust me. I wanted someone that didn't doubt me and didn't snap at me when things got hard. I wanted a relationship, but a good one unlike my parents.

I had looked up at her family for a while. It may be big, but it always worked together. There had only been one mishap in her family. Sure, her sister might have joined the Dark Forest and is now our ruler, but their family is still close and talk. Ever since Winterpaw left, we had fallen apart.

With her family even when they lost their mother, they still were close. When they lost their father, they were still close. Even when their sister went crazy and took over the clans, somehow they have reminded close to everyone except her. If they did have any problems, they didn't let everyone else see them unlike us.

Emberbreeze had it perfect in my mind. She had siblings that loved her, parents that took care of her, and courage that I didn't have. She would stand up to anyone if the need occurred. I aspired to be like her, and I aspired for her to finally notice me. I had tried to talk to her several times, but she would just walk away not giving me another thought. There would be a time that she had to say something to me, and I was going to make sure of it.

"Watch out Emberbreeze, you are going to notice this handsome tom!" I chuckled to myself holding my head up high.

I had to keep my self esteem up. I had been told by others that if you have to love yourself for others to love you too. They won't love something that you don't even bother to take care of. I didn't care if she still didn't think of me as anyone or just just kept ignoring me, I would have known I tried to talk to her and I confessed my feelings. I totally got this!

Chapter 17

[Maplesnow's POV]

Something had been off in the camp recently. It felt silent and deadly. I didn't know what was wrong with it, but I couldn't ask anyone. I just shook my pelt. It could just be the wind or my imagination. It was totally possible. I should just leave the camp for a little bit so that I could clear my mind. That was totally it.

Come out to the forest and hurry. I can't stay long. A motherly voice called to me in my head. I flicked my head confused on what it was. I usually didn't hear other voices in my head. I decided to follow it, but my cautious. It could be evil.

I got to the forest and saw something in the distance. It was a light shimmer. It almost seemed like a StarClan warrior. My eyes widened and I hurried toward the figure. That motherly voice could only be one shecat. Flamefur.

"Mother!" I cried out in joy as I jumped over a bush and saw her. I tackled her quickly and nuzzled my head against her side. It was good to finally see her again.

"Yes, hello my little one. I don't have a lot of time to talk. StarClan has been having problems getting to you. Those that go to the Moonstone just have nightmares. We don't understand what is happening, but I told Aquaclaw and Midnightstar to also tell one cat each. I had to come and tell you." Flamefur said after pushing me off and getting up. She shook her star covered pelt.

"Is there any way to destroy the Dark Forest?" I asked her worried. I had to get Witheredsoul back to my side and Tinystar away from the clans. She had to go no matter how much I cared about her.

"I don't know my sweet. I just know what I have been hearing in StarClan. There will be a traitor. I'm not sure from what side, but they will change the whole game." She said licking my forehead. I

looked up to her confused.

"Wait, I don't understand. Please help me." I begged her. I didn't understand what she meant or what she needed.

"I don't know anymore than what you know now. A traitor will change everything. Watch out for someone who changes their allegiance, they could either be your hope or your demise." She told me before her pelt started to flicker. "I have to get going. I love you. Please tell your siblings and Cheetahpelt we are watching you all from StarClan. Don't give up hope, there is still a chance." She said before fully vanishing.

I pondered on what she meant. There was going to be a traitor to one of our sides. They would change everything. *Oh StarClan, please let us win this fight.* I thought looking up to the sky. Two other cats might have been told this same message, but I had no way of knowing who the other two were. I would have to find them.

Chapter 18

[Emeraldshine's POV]

I laid down next to Flamestar to talk about the clan. I was his deputy so I had to try to do something to help him. I wasn't sure what to really do, but I had to be there for him. I nudged him softly and smiled.

"What was that for?" He asked slowly turning his head toward me. His eyes were slow to blink and almost looked glossy. I hoped he wasn't too heartbroken about what happened to the clan.

"I want you to be happy. As your deputy, that is my number one goal." I purred softly and laid my head against him. We had known each other since we were kits. We had been through some stuff together.

"You are such a suck up." He chuckled and licked the top of my head. I glanced up at him and nuzzled my head against him. He was rather warm.

"Am not. You are." I chuckled staying in my spot just admiring his features. He had always been so kind and caring to the rest of us. He was one of the ones that suggested we leave our old territory. He also said that we should join SmallClan for the journey here.

"Oh, and I'm not sucking up to anyone at the moment." He said sarcastically looking down to me. He had me there, I was kinda sucking up to him.

"Just accept my love and shush." I told him before closing my eyes. It was comfortable just to be there.

It felt like we were the only two cats in the clan. I only wished I knew what that could feel like. Flamestar and his deputy Emeraldshine together forever in their own world. It would have been better that way when everyone else didn't like our

relationship. They thought it was different and unhealthy. They thought we should never be together. It really hurt when they said those kind of things, but we still met up.

"Emeraldshine, what are you going to do when I leave?" Flamestar finally asked me to break the silence. Leave. It was such a strange word that I never wanted him to say. He had nine lives now, he didn't have to leave anytime soon.

"Which leave do you mean?" I asked him hoping he would say the runaway kind. I would follow him forever, even if I had to leave LilyClan. I had no family here. I was just some rouge that joined in. I didn't belong.

"Like, leave leave. What if I just vanished from LilyClan one day? Would you follow me or take over the clan?" He asked staring down into my eyes. I scanned his green eyes trying to find a hint of joke. There was none.

"I would always follow you. We could be happy, and we would be accepted by each other. We don't need other cats. We can find a nice home, anything. I want to be with you." I purred to him slightly worried.

"Good." He purred and closed his eyes.

Chapter 19

[Morte's POV]

I was called to go to DepthClan before sunhigh. I was slightly confused on what was going to happen, but it must have been some meeting Tinystar wanted to have. She had called for me, Malvago, and Flashstar. She had specific orders that Vendetta was to stay in the camp and watch after SmallClan. For now, I was going to have some fun. I looked around the camp wondering who I could bother.

"If you are going to bother someone, go make friends with the kits. New lives, new warriors for us." Malvago said appearing by my side. I rolled my eyes and turned to her.

"They aren't even a moon old yet! I would just terrify them and they need to be able to scream before I go over there." I told her holding my head up. Instead, I wondered if Maskedstar was busy. I hadn't talked to him for a while and it was always good to have a good influence on the tom.

"You are such a boor. Since you want to be a snooze-fest, go and get Flashstar and come back to me. We are leaving for this emergency meeting early." She said slinking over to the entrance of the camp. I rolled my eyes again and went to find the stuck up ginger tom.

"Hey, Flashstar, we have an emergency meeting in DepthClan. You are coming with us. Vendetta is the one staying." I told him and started to head to the entrance. I heard his paws following. It was almost weird. He was the only one in the clan from the Dark Forest that had paws. The rest of us could just float.

Once I got to the entrance with Flashstar following me, we headed toward the camp of DepthClan. We all stayed in silence. I tried to think of something this meeting could be about? Could it be of the cats rebelling against us? Did Tinystar have a good idea for everything that could shut them down?

I looked around and saw a shine of white. Why did it feel familiar? I thought all my memories had been erased completely, but yet I felt like I could remember that white glow. It wasn't even white when I looked at it more carefully. It was a ginger glow, but it seemed white.

"Come on Shiningdeath, you will be safe with us. We can protect you from the Dark Forest. You don't have to be their slave anymore. Join me and your son. We can change the rest of the Dark Forest." A soft voice said persistently in my mind. It was so familiar, yet I couldn't place it.

"I will, but it's going to be dangerous. Don't worry, we are strong." It seemed like my voice, but not as menacing and I didn't remember saying it. Why was I remembering small things from my past? Why did that shimmer of light make me think of that? Was there something else there? Was that what it was trying to tell me?

Chapter 20

[Thawpuddle's POV]

I curled up in my nest. It was nice that the kits were going to see the elders and I had some time with the other queens. I wanted to know how they were doing before I fell asleep.

"Hey Blossomsoul, how are you doing with all of this?" I asked her softly.

I was okay with that was happening, but I hadn't grown up in the clan to see it destroyed, and I had no reason to think otherwise. It was just a safe place for my kits and my family. They decided they wanted to be here. It wasn't my problem.

"I have no clue anymore. It's hard to see the only thing you have ever had in your life just be destroyed. I watched my mentor die, and I am still watching my mate crumble under the pressure of being a leader to live up to his father's image. I don't know how we are going to get through this, but I won't lose hope. I know the other clans haven't, so I won't either. We are so much stronger when we are together." She told me looking around. Her eyes drifted toward the clearing we could see from the nursery. I spotted the tom she was looking at. Venomstar was slowly talking to some of the warriors. It was good for him to finally get out of his den.

"I really don't know what to say about all of this." I told her and watched as Summerstripe picked her head and glared at the two of us.

"Try being kicked out of your own clan that had your entire family in it. Try having two kits with someone you truly love and watching one of them dying in front of your eyes. Imagine having all of this happen and seeing your clans falling captive to the evil. Imagine watching as despair infected those that you loved." She hissed at us and put her head back down. It had been one of the only times she had ever talked to us.

"What was all of that about?" I asked Blossomsoul. The other shecat shook her head and sighed.

It looked like she didn't know any more than I did. I wished I could help the shecat, but she just shoved everyone else away. The only ones that could get close to her were Foxkit and Robinheart. If we could just ask one of them to do something for us, then maybe we could get closer to her, but I knew they would never be able to get her to admit what was troubling her.

"Oh, I see the kits coming back. They must have finished their story with the elders." Blossomsoul said looking over to where the kits were. I smiled softly and watched as they came closer to us. My kits weren't that much older than their kits, but they still had a big size difference. I was glad they weren't bullying the other kits too.

Chapter 21

[Loveheart's POV]

I was hunting out in the forest when I felt the cold wind surround me. It was almost creepy how cold the wind was. I felt like I could almost hear my name being calling in it as well. That totally wasn't creepy.

Loveheart... believe in what you cannot see. I heard the voice in my head. Believe in what I cannot see? That sounded stupid.

"Who are you?" I asked looking around. This just had to be something of my imagination, right? There couldn't actually be someone there. I wasn't that crazy, was I?

Dear sister, just open up your eyes. I heard the voice again. Sister? I only have three siblings still alive. Could it be?

"Aquaclaw?" I asked trying to think of how to open my eyes.

They were open, but I couldn't see him. Did he mean another eye or something? I closed my eyes and focused for a moment. I focused on my brother but the memory of his body flashed back into my head. I gasped for air and opened my eyes. In front of me there was my brother all healed. He didn't look like he even had a scratch on him.

"Hello Loveheart." He smiled and nuzzled my cheek before taking a step back. "StarClan cannot work right at the moment. I was told to pick one cat I could truly trust and tell them this. I trust you the most. You are reasonable and have a good head." He told me. I blinked my eyes and laughed softly.

"Aquaclaw, we've all missed you." I choked out, my eyes tearing up. I hadn't felt like this since he had died. No one I couldn't see him right away, I didn't want to.

"I know, but I have to hurry. I don't have a lot of time here. There is going to be a traitor. They will decide the fate of what happens. Either one cat from the good side will go to the bad side, or one cat from the bad side will go to the good side. We don't know that much, but I hope to be here to help you." He quickly explained sitting down and playing with the dust. He seemed to want to say something else, but it was impossible.

"Aquaclaw, thank you. Now, my brother, is there something else you want to tell me?" I asked him. I knew him too well. If he wouldn't look at someone while talking to them, he wanted to say something else.

"How are my kits? Is Tinystar at least taking good care of them? How about Leopardtail? Is he safe? Is he happy?" He asked my quickly looking up at me. "I want to help, but no one in StarClan will let me because I'm too young. It's stupid." He hissed and hit the dirt with his paw.

"You aren't too young. They are protecting you." I purred to him.

"I don't want to be protected! I want to kill Tinystar for what she did. She tore me away from you and tore her own family apart." He hissed with tears in his eyes.

"Tell them that." I purred.

Chapter 22

[Witheredsoul's POV]

I stood next to Tinystar attentive for what she had to say. She seemed to have called most Dark Forest here. I could see most of the Phantoms except for Vendetta. I guessed she didn't want to see her father still even if he was finally on the dark side. I kinda felt bad for her, but she had to stay strong.

"How have the other clans been doing?" Tinystar starts off with the supposed Dark Forest leaders of each of the clans close to us. Some of the other warriors that were just spread out across the camp so the warriors didn't get close to us.

"I have been hearing things in SmallClan about rebellion." Malvago spoke up first as her eyes flashed red. They usually stayed black to match her form, but they flashed red when she got angry or a plan.

"Same in MapleClan." Bloodtear spoke looking around. His claws were digging into the dirt under him.

"And in TideClan. They don't seem to want us here and they think they can beat us again like they have in the past." Maplefur said lashing her tail back and forth. She was mad that they thought they could defeat us.

"I haven't heard anything in LilyClan, but I did overhear Flamestar and Emeraldshine talking about leaving." Hawkstar spoke up. It had been a while since I had seen the tom. He had stayed in LilyClan unlike the other Dark Forest leaders.

"Nothing in EverClan either." Darkfeather said.

"EverClan is too small to do anything like that. They also think very highly of Tinystar." I spoke up. I was the only one that wasn't really a leader in the main circle. Everyone else was but me. It felt kinda awkward to even be there.

"Witheredstar is right. I have been hearing some murmuring here as well. I have a small plan, but I want to run it through all of you first." Tinystar said looking at Bloodtear. He had been her true mentor and taught her everything she needed to know.

"What is it? Do you need anything else from the Dark Forest? We lost some numbers from the fight, but I know we can recover them." He quickly said keeping his head up high. He seemed to be scared of Tinystar. Everyone here seemed to be scared of her. Was there something special about her that I didn't know about?

"How many more warriors are there? I was thinking that we make an example of a cat or two to show them we mean business and also have a Dark Forest warrior go on all their patrols. They also wouldn't be allowed to leave the camp without our permission." Tinystar explained. It seemed a bit too much, but I would follow her lead. If she wanted it, I would like it.

"Sounds nice, when do we start?" Bloodtear asked glancing around the small circle. There must be a good number of warriors still in the Dark Forest.

"Tonight." Tinystar hissed.

Chapter 23

[Burninghope's POV]

I was just getting back from a patrol when I saw all the Dark Forest warriors in the camp. What in the territories was happening? Did something bad happen while I was on patrol. I looked to Cheetahpelt and he just couldn't respond. I could see the despair settling in his eyes like he couldn't do it anymore.

"What has happened to DepthClan?" Cheetahpelt whispered as his eyes scanned the area.

"I'm going to go and ask Dustyleap. Please stay here and don't try to interfere. I'll be right back." I said looking at the tom. He started to get quieter since Aquaclaw died, but then his siblings died and he was the last one. He had gone almost completely silent.

It didn't take me long to find the tom. I nudged him slightly, but he was pretty focused on what was happening. I nudged him again and he finally turned to me.

"What do you need my love?" Dustyleap asked me. I flicked my ear almost forgetting that he enjoyed calling me that. He was my mate after all.

"What is happening? I just got back from patrol and this was happening." I whispered to him trying to peer closer. It seemed like some of the Dark Forest leaders were here.

"I don't know. The Dark Forest just showed up and they haven't left yet. Has anything happened in the clan I don't know about?" He asked me quietly. I tried to think back to what had happened.

"I know Roseeyes told me about something Icehowl had an idea with. I also heard Emberbreeze arguing with Witheredsoul. Could it be about that?" I asked him trying to think. It couldn't have been anything else if it was important.

"It might be. Come on, let's try and head to the back. I don't want to know what they are talking about." Dustyleap said and started to head toward where Cheetahpelt was. I smiled back toward the tom and made sure Dustyleap went toward him.

"What is it?" The spotted tom whispered. It seemed airy and it strained my ears to hear him.

"We think it is something about how we have been talking back to the Dark Forest. It must be happening in the other clans too. Should we warn them?" I asked looking at the two toms. Cheetahpelt quickly shook his head and walked away.

"You know I'm always on your side, but what if they catch us? Do you think they'll do something?" Dustyleap asked me. I shook my head.

"They all seem too distracted about the meeting. We need to get to SmallClan and MapleClan for sure. They are the next biggest and can actually put up a fight. I think if we hurry we can make it back before a sunset patrol goes out." I told him. He just nodded and followed my lead as we quickly left the camp and made our way toward the SmallClan camp. We had to hurry before something bad happened to the rest of us.

Chapter 24

[Stagpaw's POV]

I paced around the camp trying to think of all the herbs. I had to think of a creative way to remember all these things and quiz myself. *I know! I can just think of the uses and figure out what goes with it!* I thought to myself and kept pacing.

The first thing that popped into my head was the herb that cured infected wounds and if used correctly, it could also help a bellyache, but you have to chew it for that. I tried to go through the herbs in my head. There was some herbs that helped with wounds, but only one of them helped with bellyaches too. It was chervil.

The next use for a herb I thought of was the herb that if used as a poultice could also treat infected wounds. I ran through some herbs in my head that were used for herbs. It wasn't marigold, that was if it was a pulp. It would have to be horsetail then.

Another use for herbs popped into my head. There was one other that was good for wounds if it was a poultice. It was rather yellow so I knew it wasn't horsetail. I wouldn't think of the same thing twice. It would have to be goldenrod.

There was another use that came into my head. This was the last one I was going to do like this, then I would try and remember it the other way, and then I would do it by looks alone. The use for the herb was that it could cure fevers, but it was rather difficult to find at times. I knew feverfew was rather easy to find, so it would have to be lavender.

As I started to think about different herbs, the first one I thought of was cobwebs. It could have been the fact that I was staring at a spider making it's web, but I didn't care. The use for cobwebs were that they could be used as a bandage for infected wounds.

The next herb I thought of was a juniper berry. They were a nice

little herb that had good intentions. The use for them was that they helped with bellyaches and can also help with breathing. That reminded me that I would need to go and get more of them. They would be on my list to go and get after I finish quizzing myself.

I tried to think of another herb then I finally thought of one. I had to think of the use of burdock root. I wasn't the best with it, even if I had to use it a lot. I just didn't have to best memory at times. I was almost positive that it was a dry plant, but there was something inside me that said it wasn't. I tried thinking more and finally got it. It would cure wounds if it was chewed up in a pulp.

I took a deep breath and looked around. It was only a matter of time before the medicine cats came over to see if I could become a medicine cat.

Chapter 25

[Venomstar's POV]

It had been a while since I had been outside my den. I had been out before for the warrior assignment and I also went out to talk to a few warriors, but I hadn't done much else besides that. I was mainly thinking about what had happened to my father. I wondered how Pricklestorm was dealing with it too. He was rather close to him, but I had always been the closest.

To Silverstar, I was the prodigy child. I was his favorite out of all his children. He was happy I stayed to be a warrior, but he was also happy with his other kits. He made sure I trained hard, and that if I was having trouble with something he would help me. Even if he had to sacrifice time with his own apprentice, he would do whatever for me.

He sacrificed himself for me. I could see it in his eyes that he wanted me to live no matter what. He would have done so even if he didn't die at that point. I had watched him jump into danger for me time and time again. He did it for Moonflash as well, but I think he tried to do it more for me.

I wished I could just talk to him again. I had been trying to connect to him, but StarClan had been silent. I didn't know if it was because the Dark Forest was here, or if something had happened up there for them to be silent. That was one of the main reasons I had been distant and spending a lot of time to myself. I was determined to figure out if I could ever speak to him again. I knew he would never turn his back to me.

I had a small idea but I doubt it would work. I would have to find Brightfire before I tried it anyways. I would have to see if the Moon Stone still worked. It was my only hope left to get to StarClan. It always got the medicine cats to StarClan, and it had never turned a new leader away. I just hoped nothing had changed from that.

After I found my deputy, I quickly told her what I needed to. "Brightfire, watch after the clan. I have something to do." I then hurried out of the camp heading to the sacred ground that StarClan rested on.

I made good time to get there. It was getting dark so that was also good. If I remembered right, it had to be dark for me to talk to them. I headed down the tunnel and could see the faint shimmer of the rock. It was now or never.

I touched my nose to the stone and fell asleep. I looked around when I woke up. This was not StarClan. It was definitely not StarClan. They would never show me my clan burning and everyone dying. They would never show me my worst fears.

Chapter 26

[Dustyleap's POV]

The clan felt silent and heavy for unknown reasons. I glanced around the camp and saw multiple Dark Forest warriors standing around or somewhere close to Tinystar. I had no clue what was happening, but I could tell it was something bad. I walked over to a cat closer to what was happening and noticed it was Lightstorm.

"Do you have any clue what is going on and why so many Dark Forest warriors are here?" I asked her softly. She had always been someone easy to talk to. We were still a good badger-length before the Dark Forest warriors started. No one else was as close, but I felt someone walk up to my side.

"Tinystar is planning something." Maplesnow said shaking his head. His eyes were narrow, but he seemed to have a plan in his mind.

"I don't know what they are doing, but I'm about to find out." Lightstorm said getting up and heading toward the warriors. I pinned my ears back thinking this was a bad idea.

"Lightstorm! Stop this recklessness. We need a plan before you do anything." Maplesnow hissed under his breath quickly going to get his sister. I jumped up and went after her. I tried to grab her, but she just barely missed me.

"Don't stop me, I'm finding things out even if it costs me my life." She hissed at us right before she almost ran into a Dark Forest warrior. I watched in horror of what would happen. She couldn't sacrifice her life, could she?

"Come on, let's get her. None of my siblings are dying before Tinystar dies." Maplesnow hissed and went after his sister. I followed after him and watched as his sister scratched the Dark Forest warrior and continued her way to Tinystar. This wasn't going to end good for any of us.

"Who in the Dark Forest is causing this disruption!" Tinystar yowled. I pinned my ears back and stopped in my tracks. It would not be good to get on her bad side now.

"Tinystar, tell us what you are doing." Lightstorm hissed back at the small leader. Her eyes were raging with a rage I hadn't seen since Flamefur died. Lightstorm clearly had her mother's rage, but I think they all did.

"Why should I tell someone that disrupts a meeting? Get back into your dens and don't come out until I call a clan meeting." Tinystar hissed making me shiver. She had such authority and was so powerful. She could easily have killed Lightstorm right there, but she decided not to.

"Come on Lightstorm, lets go to the warrior's den." I said speaking up slightly. I felt like I was trembling. I didn't know what to do or what to expect. I just knew nothing would be the same after the meeting she was going to call. Everything was going to change just because we wanted to get some answers. She should be happy we stopped. We could have done a lot worse.

Chapter 27

[Acornkit's POV]

I watched as my mother called clan meeting. I didn't know what this was for since we just had a warrior ceremony and none of the kits were anywhere close to six moons. The closest ones were Spokenkit and Nightkit but they are just two moons old. They still had four more moons and I knew that my brother and I had four and a half more moons. Then there were Smokekit, Leafkit, Wolfkit, and Goldkit that were only one moons old at the moment. They had five more moons until they became apprentices like the rest of us.

I watched from the back with my brother, but we were soon shoved to the front with the other kits so we could see what was happening. I let out a small squeak of surprise and watched with wide eyes.

My mother was no longer on the Depth Rock, but instead she was on the ground level with the rest of us. On one side of her Witheredsoul stood proudly with his head held up high. It was like he had just became something even more important than he already was. On the other side, there was Darkfeather always close to his mate's side.

In front of the three important cats, one cat stood with her head held up high. Her amber eyes shone with anger as one of the Phantoms and Bloodtear stood on either side of her. It was Lightstorm. I didn't know what was happening, but why would Lightstorm be so close up to the front? Did she do something bad?

"Warriors of DepthClan and warriors of the Dark Forest! We gather here tonight for us to show you that you cannot threaten us or try and plan against us. We will be watching you closely. If any of you are the disobey us, watch closely to see what will happen to you." Tinystar hissed before breaking away from the two toms. She padded up to Lightstorm and raked her claws across the other shecat's cheek.

I let out an audible gasp which earned me a few glares from some of the Dark Forest supporters. I knew this was how things were suppose to be, but I still didn't really like it. Tinystar then shoved her sister to the ground and pinned her down. Lightstorm didn't even bother to fight back. I knew that meant that she knew it was coming and if she fought back, then it would just be a lot worse.

I lowered my eyes rather confused. I didn't know why this was happening. I didn't exactly like it, but I was forced to accept it as my life as the leader's oldest kit. I was also the stronger of the two. Silentkit was just quiet and hardly talked. I had a mind of my own and didn't keep my opinion to myself. I heard a shriek echo through the air and heard the gurgled sound of gasping for air. I was glad I wasn't looking.

Chapter 28

[Creamspots's POV]

I was so happy I couldn't actually see what was happening. For once, I was happy for my disability. I didn't have to watch Lightstorm being murdered and mauled in front of everyone else. I just pinned my ears back wishing I didn't have to hear anything else that partook in these actions.

It wasn't long until the shrieking had stopped, and the silence overtook the whole camp. I guessed that the warrior was killed and no one knew what the say. It wasn't everyday that you see one of your best friends get mauled in front of you.

I knew I had trained with the shecat and she had helped me with the herbs I needed to get and some of the few fighting combinations I needed. She was such a nice warrior. She watched over others and made sure everyone was getting along. She didn't deserve to die this way. She deserved to live a long life, find someone she cared about and have kits too.

"Now that you have all seen this, I believe that you will all be acting a lot better. No one should ever back talk my warriors or someone else will die next." Tinystar's voice hissed through the silence.

It only made everyone else feel more uncomfortable. Had Lightstorm really mouthed off to one of the Dark Forest warriors? I could never imagine one of the nicest shecats doing that to one of them. She didn't seem to be one of the cats to do that. It could have been someone else and Tinystar just decided to pick someone random to hurt.

"Also, we will be sending a Dark Forest warrior with each of the patrols that go outside of the camp. It will just be better for us so that we make sure no one is being a traitor." One of the other voices, which I made out to be Darkfeather, hissed out. I just looked down, or what I presumed was down.

"It will be better for us. The patrols will also have set leaders. The leaders will be our Dark Forest warriors. We will also be posting guards at the entrances to the camp starting tonight. There will be no exiting the camp the without permission." Witheredsoul's voice then rang out from camp.

I only wondered what would happen from here on out. It wouldn't be anything good. I could hear the uncomfortableness in the whole camp. They were unsure of what to do. Some felt like they wanted to cheer, and others knew this would become a dark time. I just knew we had to hold onto our hope and we would be able to make it out of this. It wouldn't be long until something would happen to the Dark Forest.

I just prayed to StarClan that we could get a miracle sent our way, but I hadn't heard anything from them since the Dark Forest took over. I just hoped that they hadn't turned their backs on us when we hadn't turned our backs on them.

Epilogue

As the other clans slowly learned about the murder of Lightstorm and the new rules that would be added to their camps, there was a layer of silence all across the lands. No one was sure what to do, and they couldn't scheme against the Dark Forest.

In a few of the clans, some cats rejoiced that the Dark Forest was truly taking their rule. The other clans were unsure of what to really do and what to even say. Their leaders were all young and unexperienced. They had to find something out so that they could get all the warriors together. There was no longer anytime to do that except for the gathering coming up.

Up in the stars, there was murmuring going around. There were a few warriors of the stars that wanted to help the clans, but they had no way to do it. The medicine cats had gone to the Moon Stone but it seemed like it wasn't working anymore. The cats had tried to sleep next to it, but if they went to sleep they just went to having nightmares.

"I will not let my clans die like this. There has to be something you can do! Midnightstar, help me out. We need to find other cats, we need to find some other warriors that will get to the clans with us." A ginger shecat hissed looking around. A jet black shecat laid next to her being lazy as always.

"It's impossible Flamefur. We sent Spokenstar and Nightmoon down there already. Cheetahpelt is also down there. We just have to keep them all alive so that they won't be sent back up here. Cheetahpelt may be shy, but he is a lot stronger than you give him credit." Midnightstar told the shecat. StarClan had no hold on the clans anymore. They needed to just trust who was already down there.

"My brother cannot control one clan, let alone six of them! There is no way that he can ever get them all to band under him and also tell them what to do. He needs our help. He needs *my* help. Spokenstar and Nightmoon are only two mood old at the time. They

won't be any help until they are at least seven moons old. We don't even know if they have any memories of what had happened!" Flamefur hissed getting up to pace. She could see another figure walking toward them. It was Aquaclaw from what she could tell.

"If there are any other kits coming anytime soon, I want to be in the litter. I don't care what you say. Spokenstar and Nightmoon were sent soon after they died. Why can't I be sent there?" Aquaclaw asked trying to persuade his way into the conversation.

"You are too young to understand Aquaclaw." Flamefur tried to explain to the tom.

"You are too old to understand my pain! I was murdered by my own mate. If there is someway that I can give her payback, I want to be there." He hissed at them before walking away.

Thanks!

There we have it! Just one more book of the never ending series complete. I hope everyone has enjoyed it. I worked incredibly hard on this one to make sure I got it done this month. There will be more drama to come in the next book and the rest of the this series. The allegiance of the next book, Hunt For Survival, should be out today as well. Go and get that in your reading list if you have been liking the series.

Now it is the time that everyone that has ever read this series shall know is coming. The special thanks to the people I have seen put it in their reading list, vote, comment, or always be there for me.

First is rosellecrowns because she is my very best friend. You all know that without her, this series would never have happened. She is the core of the series and has always been there for me. I love her with all of my heart and I don't know how she puts up with me some days. She's that special friend I know I can tell anything.

Second is @TaylorBurnham7 and I don't know if it will actually tag you or not. I hope it does. I've been seeing you put the story in your reading list for a while but when I got to this part, I always forgot your name. I wanted to say thanks for it all and I hope you have been enjoying the series.

Third we will have skystxr ! I am finally catching up on you Sky. It won't be long now until I have more books than you. Want to give me some of those reads tho? I can certainly use them. But you are one of the main people that I have been competing with. Both of our series are certainly long and I know people love them both. Keep writing girl!